AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:
   (a) at least one selected from the group consisting of the human liver regeneration associated protein hLRTM4, a polynucleotide comprising the hLRTM4 gene, and a polynucleotide comprising a degenerate sequence of the hLRTM4 gene; and
   (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, diluent or carrier.

2. (Withdrawn) The composition of claim 1, wherein the hLRTM4 protein has the amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:2, and the hLRTM4 gene has a sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO: 1.

3. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein the effective amount is 1 μg-5 mg/kg body weight per day.

4. (Withdrawn) A method for treating liver injury, comprising administering an effective amount of the pharmaceutical composition of claim 1 to a subject in need thereof.

5. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 4, wherein the liver injury is acute or chronic hepatitis, liver cirrhosis, or liver pathological changes caused by liver cancer.

6. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising:
   (a) an antagonist of hLRTM4 protein, hLRTM4 gene, or hLRTM4 gene transcript, wherein the hLRTM4 protein has a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and the hLRTM4 gene has a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1, wherein the antagonist is an antibody or a polynucleotide having a fragment of at least 15 bases that hybridize to the hLRTM4 gene or the hLRTM4 gene transcript; and
   (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable vehicle, diluent or carrier.

7. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 6, wherein the ~~antagonist~~ polynucleotide is at least one selected from the group consisting of: (i) an antisense polynucleotide for the hLRTM4 gene transcript, and (ii) a small interfering RNA for the hLRTM4 gene transcript~~; and (iii) an antibody against the hLRTM4 protein~~.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the effective amount is 1 ug-5 mg/kg body weight per day.

9. (Previously Presented) A method for treating hepatocellular carcinoma or gastric adenocarcinoma, comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the composition of claim 6.

10. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 7, wherein the antagonist is the antisense polynucleotide, wherein the antisense polynucleotide has a fragment of at least 30 bases that hybridize to the hLRTM4 gene transcript ~~having a length of 15 – 625 nucleotides~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 7, wherein the antagonist is the small interfering RNA, wherein the small interfering RNA has ~~having~~ a length of 16-23 bp and a 3' terminal dTdT sequence.

12. (Withdrawn) An isolated hLRTM4 protein or a fragment thereof, wherein the hLRTM4 protein has a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

13. (Withdrawn) An isolated polynucleotide encoding the protein or the fragment of claim 12.

14. (Withdrawn) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 13, wherein the isolated polynucleotide has a sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

15. (Withdrawn) The isolated polynucleotide of claim 13, wherein the isolated polynucleotide is incorporated in an expression vector.

16. (New) The composition of claim 7, wherein the antagonist is the small interfering RNA, wherein the small interfering RNA has a length of 19-21 bp and a 3' terminal dTdT sequence.

17. (New) The composition of claim 7, wherein the antagonist is the antisense polynucleotide, wherein the antisense polynucleotide has a fragment of at least 50 bases that hybridize to the hLRTM4 gene transcript.

18. (New) The composition of claim 7, wherein the antagonist is the antisense polynucleotide, wherein the antisense polynucleotide has a fragment of at least 100 bases that hybridize to the hLRTM4 gene transcript.